

Title: The Art of Ranching: A 4-H Youth Oral History Project of Centennial Ranches in Routt County

Faculty Mentor: Leisl Carr Childers (Public Lands History Center, Department of History, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; Leisl.Carr_Childers@colostate.edu)

Other Mentors: Tami Eggers (4-H Agent, Colorado State University Extension, Steamboat Springs, CO; teggers@co.routt.co.us)

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Location: This project will take place in Fort Collins, Colorado, with some travel to Routt County.

Goals, Scope, and Objectives: The overall goal of the internship is to provide the student with opportunities to develop their public history and public communication skills with specific emphasis on building a digital StoryMap to exhibit the Art of Ranching oral history project. The Art of Ranching project engages 4-H youth, multiple generations of ranchers, Routt County Extension staff, county leaders, and History Colorado. The scope of the work done by the intern will include compiling information from the youth-led oral history collection and History Colorado collections, interpreting the oral history information in a Story Map framework, and building a digital public-facing StoryMap exhibition for the project. Specific objectives include: (1) continued development of relationships between CSU Extension, CSU Public Lands History Center, History Colorado, and 4-H professionals, (2) analysis and interpretation of oral history and historical sources, and (3) production of a Story Map for the project. The intern will be working with ranchers, 4-H youth, historical preservation groups.

Background: Routt County has a strong ranching legacy. Centennial Ranches are celebrated by History Colorado for withstanding the test of time. Centennial Ranches have remained in the same family continuously for 100 years or more; are working farm or ranch; and must have a minimum of 160 acres. There are eleven Centennial Ranches in Routt County. The CSU Routt County Extension Office is working with their 4-H program to conduct oral histories with the families who run these ranches that will be presented in a Story Map. Story Maps are a powerful platform that integrate spatial thinking with storytelling to present information in a compelling, interactive and easy to understand format. Routt County 4-H is the pilot program with the goal of developing a storytelling framework for the rest of the state. 4-H agents in ten Western Colorado counties have expressed interest in implementing the project in their communities.

Outcomes: By the end of the internship the intern will develop important skills necessary to: (1) help facilitate and manage community-campus research projects and (2) create an engaging multi-media Story Map.

Mentor Backgrounds: Both Dr. Christensen and Dr. Carr Childers have worked with CSU Internship mentees. Tami Eggers has led the county 4-H program for over nine years. During her tenure, she expanded a youth leadership program providing peer-to-peer mentor opportunities. The mentor contacts will provide the general structure of the internship and ongoing support to ensure that the mentee can thrive, while providing the flexibility necessary to make the project something they can own. The mentee will also be encouraged to experience the wide variety of tasks associated with an Extension career, in addition to the focusing on a particular research project.

Travel Funds: Any travel within Routt County will be covered. Accommodations during overnight stays in Routt County will also be provided.